

THE
JEWISH
DAILY

FORWARD

OCTOBER 1983

TISHREI/HESHVAN 5744

Holiday Greetings

The Congregation's mailbox has been unusually busy following our High Holy Day services. Many of those attending the services made generous donations to our building fund, and we received some very warm messages as well. We can't reprint all these wonderful letters, but the two letters that follow express well the love shown by all these letters.

Dear Wonderful People,

I've just gone through my second High Holy Day period with you. There are no words to tell you how much your very existence means to me. I, too, feel like Congregation Sha'ar Zahav is Home.

Unfortunately, my partner and I live in the East Bay. Much as we want to be an active part of the Congregation, it is just about impossible. So we have joined one of the more liberal congregations in the East Bay. This allows our children to get to Hebrew School easily after school, as well as the chance to attend Sunday religious school.

But my heart and my soul are with you. I've enclosed a contribution for the building fund, as has my daughter.

Thank you for being there. And keep up the wonderful work.

Bobbie R.

And from her daughter, a letter with a drawing of the view from where she sat:

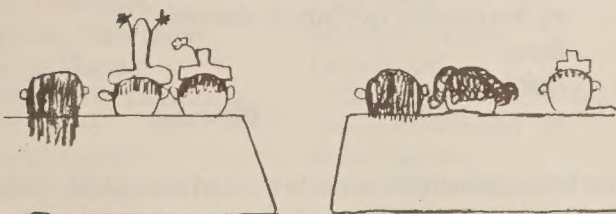
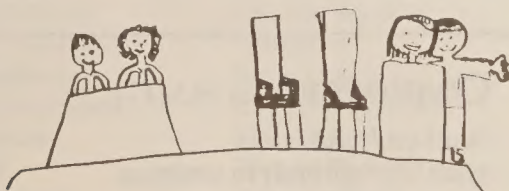
Dear Congregation Sha'ar Zahav,

This was my second year at your high holiday service.

I'm not sure why I like it better than my own congregation but I do. I'm very glad that there is something I can do to help you.

Jennfier R.

10½



High Holy Days Aid the Building Fund ... and Our Spirits!

THE PITCHES AT SHA'AR ZAHAV'S HIGH HOLY DAY SERVICES this year were all directed toward our Building Fund, with many references to the cherished Jewish tradition of asking for financial contributions during this most holy period. On Erev Rosh Hashanah, Allan Gold and Cheryl Orvis spoke of the need to support a congregation such as ours which both allows for and thrives on a rich blend of all the commonalities and diversities which typify our members.

On Rosh Hashanah, Paul Cohen stressed the importance of everyone realizing that even if they could not become members, they still must share in the responsibility of supporting Sha'ar Zahav, so that it can continue to be there, in a stronger and stronger form, especially at the times it is needed most.

At Kol Nidre, Irene Ogus related a personal experience shared by many of us at Sha'ar Zahav — being a member has allowed her to attain religious "adulthood." Having gained that, she recognized that part of being a "grown-up" is the acceptance of responsibility for supporting those things which are important to all of us. If having a synagogue like Sha'ar Zahav is personally important, we must support it.

Finally, on Yom Kippur, Don Albert used the theme of a "keystone" to emphasize that this is a most critical stage during our building campaign, the time when with just a bit more effort from *everyone*, the keystone in our campaign can be set into place. It will take, however, everyone's efforts: the commitments of one or two people will not complete our campaign — everyone's contributions are needed.

Thanks in part to the generosity of those who attended our High Holy Day services, our Congregation moved closer to its goal of buying "A Home of Our Own." Our expectation is that on September 30, we will have \$180,000 in cash. That leaves us with just \$20,000 to raise before we can close escrow on 201 Caselli Avenue in mid-October. *You still have time to help us achieve our goal.*

(continued on page 3)

Mike's Column: Where Do We Go From Here?

SEPTEMBER 11, SUNDAY — a warm day, too warm for San Francisco; a day for the beach, for the pool if you're lucky enough to have a friend who has one. A day to bask in the glow of the Bill Mandel piece, and to wonder what the impact will be.

Will it help us raise the \$50,000 we need in just three weeks? Will its wide distribution (many of us are sending it home to family and friends) help convince the UAHC that there *must* be a workshop on Judaism and homosexuality at the Biennial in Houston? Will it bring us more people than we can seat for the Kol Nidre service Friday? (From my typewriter to God's ear — we should only have such a problem!)

September 11, Sunday — just a typical day in the life of our Congregation. Just as the day before was typical. On Saturday the Women's Chavurah and their friends, women and men, gathered at the Irwin Memorial Blood Bank to donate another 17 pints of blood to the Congregation's account. We missed Chai — 18 — by a few pounds. One of the potential donors didn't weigh enough! Oy!

The article was a good one, and I'm grateful to Ron and Sharyn for arranging it, to Irene and Daniel for their perceptive and moving comments, and, of course, to Bill Mandel for his genuine interest in the Congregation. I think it will help. But I *know* we'll raise the money we need for our synagogue, just as we'll certainly find room for 750 people on Kol Nidre if we have to.

What I'm not so sure of is, what next? Where do we go from here? What should be the major focus of our attention once the Building Campaign is over?

The end of the Campaign will free up the energies of a number of talented women and men (granted, a few weeks of "rest and recuperation" are well deserved). And many of the new, enthusiastic people who've just joined

us are ready to go to work. But what should we be working on?

Should we concentrate mainly on issues of particular concern to gay people? What Jewish issues should we be involved in? What about the Nuclear Freeze Movement, Latin and South America, poverty, racism and sexism? Should our synagogue be working on these difficult and so important problems?

And to go from the global to the particular, what do we need for *us* as members of one specific synagogue? A Men's Chavurah patterned on the beautiful model the women have created? Support groups? An active education program even before we have a rabbi? Saturday services where we can try out different forms of worship, where we can bring a more spiritual element to the life of the Congregation?

None of these is a rhetorical question. Every one of them — and more — will be considered by the leadership (broadly defined) of our Congregation at an "Advance" at a camp in the Santa Cruz mountains the last weekend in October.

That "Advance" will succeed only if we know what the membership of the Congregation wants our synagogue to be. We've done some preliminary surveys — but some of you have joined since then. No matter when you joined, we want to know what you think. Give any of the officers or Va'ad members a call. Buttonhole us at an Oneg. Send a letter to the Congregation office. We'll get it — and we'll pay attention to it!

As leaders, we are pretty good folk. By and large, we do a good job. But we aren't mind readers. We can only make of Sha'ar Zahav what you want it to be if you tell us what that is. Believe me, your opinions will be heard. And since when are Jews shy about expressing opinions? Oy!

Shalom,

— Mike

Ed. Note: Mike need not have worried about seating the 700 people. We actually had around 800 for Kol Nidre! All the folding chairs in the overflow area were full, as was the choir loft. There is, however, no substance to the rumor that we are negotiating for Davies Hall for next year's High Holy Days.

The Jewish Gaily Forward is published 12 times annually by Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, PO Box 5640, San Francisco, California 94101, (415) 921-7612. Permission to reproduce non-copyrighted material is freely given, credit would be appreciated.

All newsletter copy should be typed, double-spaced and is due on the 10th of the month. It should be sent to the Synagogue office, marked to the attention of the *Forward*.

Members of the Newsletter Committee are Alex Ingersoll and Leila Raim (editorial and production), Bart Benderoff, Alan Schrager and Barry Siegel (distribution). The *Forward* is typeset by Cole Valley Graphics and printed by Lou Greene.

The display advertising rate is \$10 per column inch with a frequency discount of 10% for six or more insertions. The Advertising deadline is the 10th of the month. Ads should be camera ready. Any advertising that requires typesetting, camera and/or artwork is subject to a one-time production charge. Payment must accompany order and should be sent to the Synagogue Office, marked attention *Forward* advertising. For more information on advertising rates and charges, call the Synagogue Office 921-7612.

Cryptogram (by H.M.G.)

Aymf ciuh duf
ayub ibu vgihhuh m vmhyua
azfy fyu hikbc rmcu
nj fmttzb d m hvybittuh dwmhh
ibvu
dubfwj
azfy m htiib? Bkf-fzbd.

Break the letter substitution code to read the riddle. (We all have holiday traditions, and the above riddle may well involve *somebody's* tradition. Solution on last page of this issue.)

Building Fund *(continued from page 1)*

If you have made a pledge for payment after September 30, please consider whether you can pay any or all of that pledge now. If you haven't made a pledge (both members and friends of Sha'ar Zahav), please consider making a(nother) tax-deductible contribution to our Building Fund.

Remember, too, that until 5:00 p.m. on October 9, Rolls Royce Raffle tickets may be purchased for \$50 each. The drawing will be held at that time at our new home. Please plan on attending this exciting event.

To those many of you who have already brought us so close to attaining our dream of our own home, a hearty thank you. Following is a list of members who have contributed so generously to our campaign (alphabetically, not including raffle ticket purchases):

Donald W. Albert
Harvey Bartnoff
Alvin H. Baum, Jr.
Bart Benderoff
Barry Benenson
Allan Berenstein
V.L. Berg
Leslie Bergson
Joan Blazewick
Leonard Brill
Ralph Buchalter
Larry Chandler
Philip Charney
Seth Charney
Daniel Chesir
Abraham Cohen
Laurence Cohen
Paul Cohen
Aaron Cooper
Steven Cronenwalt
Richard Ditewig
James Dobkins
Steven Elman
Mike Freedland
Jonathan Funk
Ed Gabay
David Gellman
Allan Gold
John Golebowski
Brad Gould
Janis Greenberg
Steven Greenberg
Ted Greenberg
Susan Greenspan
Roger Gross
Helen H.
Bruce Hansen
Ann Hartstein/
Debra Silverman
Laurie Hauer/
Mercedes Laurencin
Hal Heller
Andy Hirsch
Dvora Honigstein
Steven Horowitz
David Hyman
Frank Hyman

Richard Inlander/
Ted Mendonca
Betty Kalis
Bruce Katz
Eric Keitel
Alyce Kimmerling
Elliot Klein
Stephen Klein
Chris Knepper
Garry Koenigsberg
Duff Kreitzberg
C. David Kuhlman
Walter Leiss
David Levine
Robert Levy
Ron Lezell
Shirley Liberman
Norman Lillian
Marc Lipschutz
Michael Lipson
Alan Lubliner
Janice Macomber
Jack Mann
Rabbi Ben Marcus
Frank Martinez
Janice Medina
Mark Mendelow
Nancy Meyer
Marilyn Miller
Ron Moscovitz
Charles Norton
Gordon O.
Irene Ogus
Cheryl Orvis
Harold P.
Harold Parker
Alice Perlman
John Petry
Bernard Pechter
Leila Raim/
Catherine Wisniewski
Laurie Radovsky
Mike Rankin
Arthur Reichstadt
Marion Richter
Herman Rifkin
David Ring

Robert Rockland
Steven Rosenberg
Alita Rosenfeld
Gerald Rosenstein
Tom Rothgiesser/
George Lucas
Yolanda S.
Micah Sabraw
Sharyn Saslasky
Nicole Schapiro
Robert Schoen
Cynthia Schorr
Alan Schrager
Neil Sechan
Dan Serbins
Talia Shafir
Ron Shore
Daniel Sonnenfeld
Shelley Spiro
David Stein/
Alex Ingersoll
Nanci Stern/
Patricia Smith
Peter Tannen
Robert Tat
Sam Thal
Dana Vinicoff
Ralph Vissell
Mark Weisman
Wendy Weiss
Ron Wolberg
Nina Wouk
Michael Zimmerman
Joanne

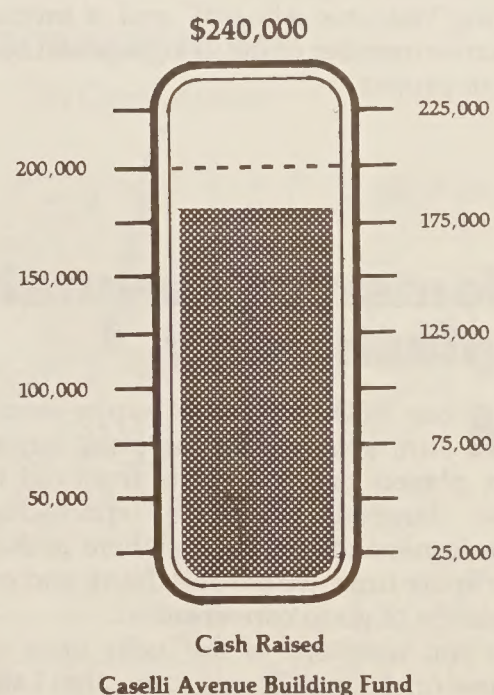


Join us at the **GREAT SHA'AR ZAHAV BUILDING CAMPAIGN ROLLS ROYCE RAFFLE DRAWING**

Sunday, October 9th
5:00 p.m.
at
201 Caselli Avenue

Our Goal

A HOME OF OUR OWN!
Congregation Sha'ar Zahav
דבית שלנו



"Adonai has chosen you to build a house for the sanctuary.
Be strong and do it."—1 Chronicles (28:10)

Take Me Out to the Ballgame . . .

MARK THE DATE on your calendars: Sunday, October 9 is the date of the next Sha'ar Zahav softball game and picnic. Since this is also the date of our Rolls Royce raffle drawing, the game will run from 10:30 until 4:30, with picnicking at every available inning break. So pack a lunch and your sun visor, and make tracks for the Julius Kahn Playground in the Presidio in San Francisco. As always, spectators, cheerleaders and kibbutzers are most welcome. For more information, call Mark Mendelow at 854-2276.

Directions: Enter the Presidio at the Arguello Gate. Make a sharp right immediately after entering, and drive along the inside of the wall to the bottom of the hill. The playground is on the left.

Hope to see you all there!

New Members Social Planned

A New Members Tea is being planned for the near future for all the members who have joined our Congregation in the past year, including the 17 new members who were voted into membership at the September 19 Va'ad meeting. During the Building Campaign, many of our social events have been curtailed, including those designed to welcome newcomers to the Congregation. Now that that Campaign is drawing to a wonderfully successful conclusion, all these other activities are springing to life.

All those who joined since our last New Members Tea will be receiving an invitation in the mail. It's our way of saying "Welcome Aboard!" and of inviting you to become an *active* member of the Congregation by joining a committee or project.

Women's Chavurah Splash Party

MORE THAN TWO DOZEN happy women cavorted in the sun, splashed in the pool, languished in the hot tub, played games ranging from old fashioned pool to new fangled computer space-chase with semi-tournament scrabble somewhere in the middle — and in our spare time, we ate and drank and greatly enjoyed the pleasure of good conversation.

If you were one of the lucky ones who was at Alita's house on August 21, you know that I am not exaggerating in the least. If you were not there... well, hopefully, now that you know what a special time of joyous sisterhood you missed, you will make it a point not to miss any more of our wonderful events.

Special thanks to Alita and her extended family for their hospitality.

Blood Drive Makes Front Page

On September 10, the Women's Chavurah held its second blood drive at the Irwin Memorial Blood Bank. During this primary time of giving in the Jewish year (the Days of Awe), we again showed our dedication to our family. Seventeen pints were collected from donors who were royally treated by several of our brothers who again provided excellent food and supportive companionship.

A reporter from *Bay Area Reporter* interviewed several participants and the resulting article appeared on the front page of the September 15 issue of B.A.R. A spokesperson for Irwin Memorial repeatedly stressed that these blood drives by our Women's Chavurah have inspired a very successful program of similar drives among the San Francisco women's community as a whole. Thus, our efforts, pursued out of love and a sense of mishpucha, have also earned Sha'ar Zahav recognition in the community.

Heartfelt thanks to all the women and men who helped us in making this ongoing endeavor a success. We will continue to need you in future efforts as well.

Va'ad Report

SEPTEMBER 19: Mike Rankin reported on continued discussion with the UAHC regarding presentation of a panel on homosexuality and Judaism at the UAHC Biennial in Houston in November. At the present time, the UAHC has been somewhat unresponsive to our requests for such a presentation. Letters to the appropriate individuals at the UAHC have been sent by Mike, the president of BCC (L.A.) and the World Congress of Gay and Lesbian Jewish Organizations in support of this conference.

The Membership Committee was pleased to present 17 new members for approval by the Va'ad. Approval was unanimous, and this brings our total membership for 1983-84 to 222 members. Mazel tov to those of you who were voted in. You will be receiving membership packets in the mail in the very near future. Eric and Alita also announced that planning of a new members tea is in progress.

Mike Rankin, Cheryl Orvis, Daniel Chesir and David Stein were chosen unanimously by the Va'ad to represent us at the upcoming UAHC Biennial. Other business discussed at the meeting included updates on the building campaign, and various committee reports. Nancy Meyer informed us that our recent blood drive resulted in 17 pints of blood donated.

The annual congregational advance is currently planned for October 28-30, 1983 at Greenwood Lodge, Soquel, California. The leadership of the Congregation will spend a weekend working together in order to improve our leadership abilities, and generally learning how to be a more effective organizational body. Expenses for this meeting will be borne by the attendees.

The next Va'ad meeting will be held on Monday evening, October 10, 1983 at 6:30 P.M. at 201 Caselli Avenue. Members of the Congregation are encouraged to attend.

1983

OCTOBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 ב
2 ב	3 ג	4 ד	5 ה	6 ו	7 ז Rosh Hodesh A	8 ח Rosh Hodesh B
9 ט Softball/Picnic Raffle Drawing	10 י Va'ad Meeting Newsletter Deadline	11 יא	12 יב	13 יג	14 יד	15 טו
16 טז	17 יז	18 יח	19 יט	20 כ	21 כא	22 כב
23 כג	24 כד Finance Committee	25 כה	26 כו	27 כז	28 כח	29 כט Leadership "Advance" Weekend
30 ל	31 א	East Bay Lunch Group 921-7846		Ritual Committee		

Ritual Calendar

Friday,
October 7

Shabbat Rosh Chodesh

Torah: Noah, Gen. 6:9-11:32
Special Torah Reading: Num. 28:9-15
Special Haftarah: Isaiah 66:1-24
 Eric Keitel and Wendy Weiss, Services

Friday,
October 14

Torah: Lech Lecha, Gen. 12:1-17:27
Haftarah: Isaiah 40:27-41:16
 Torah Service
 Steve Greenberg, Services

Friday,
October 21

Torah: Va-Yera, Gen. 18:1-22:24
Haftarah: II Kings 4:1-37
 Daniel Chesir, Services

Friday,
October 28

Torah: Hayye Sarah, Gen. 23:1-25:18
Haftarah: I Kings 1:1-31
 Steve Elman, Services

Regular Friday night services are held at 8:15 at our future home, the Reorganized Church of Latter Day Saints, 201 Caselli Avenue (corner of Danvers).

OUR NEW HOME!

201 Caselli Avenue



Nearest Muni:

#33 Ashbury at 18th & Danvers
 (The #33 Ashbury operates on a 20-minute headway)

In Case You Missed It



New Year's Eve, 5744

IN THE VESTIBULE of the Unitarian Center on Franklin Street, hundreds of people are gathering for the celebration of Rosh Hashana, the Jewish New Year, which began at dusk Wednesday. Outside, in the sun-warmed courtyard, Irene Ogus smiles as she watches the throng arrive, memories skipping across her mind.

"You can always tell the people who come for the first time," says Ogus, 39, who bears an uncanny resemblance to tennis star Virginia Wade. "They're the ones who are crying."

Ogus, a financial manager and a lesbian, recalls her first visit to Congregation Sha'ar Zahav (Golden Gate), The City's predominantly gay synagogue.

"I was raised an Orthodox Jew in England," she tells me, fingering a thin gold chain resting on her red silk dress. "I came to San Francisco in 1970, and for nine years I was not a Jew. I was isolated and lonely, especially during the holidays. I visited some of the straight synagogues, but I didn't fit in. They were always asking questions about who I was dating, trying to fix me up with a nice Jewish boy."

"I had heard vaguely about Sha'ar Zahav in the gay press, so one day in 1979 I came. It was a Friday night service, and there I sat, crying through the whole ceremony. Finding these people who accepted me as I am and invited me into their religious life was like a rebirth. It felt so good and so warm."

Wednesday night, it was easy to see what Ogus meant. Most of the 700 worshipers arrived in same-sex groups. Men and women embraced their partners as the congregation worked its way through the joyous liturgy of the new year's service.

"HOW GOOD IT IS to gather in the house of a God who loves each of us as we are created," says the opening page of Sha'ar Zahav's Rosh Hashana prayer book. "How sweet it is to gather, women and men together, in the house of a God who transcends human limits, who values deeds of caring above the recitation of creeds."

At another point, a Hebrew address to God usually translated "Our Father, our King," is printed, "Our Mother, our Ruler."

The prayer book is an example of Sha'ar Zahav's effort to take gender out of worship, a particularly difficult goal in a religion heavily biased toward men. In Orthodox synagogues, for example, men and women may not sit together.

Sha'ar Zahav is one of three predominantly gay synagogues in the country. The other two are in New York and Los Angeles. Are separate gay congregations really necessary?

"Jewish life is structured to revolve around the family and the synagogue," says Sha'ar Zahav co-founder Daniel Chesir, a 41-year-old lawyer who chose the law over rabbinical school at the last moment. "Gay people in San Francisco are all from different places. And our 'families' don't consist of opposite-sex spouses. So that eliminates two of the strongest bonds you find in traditional congregations. When we attend straight synagogues, we have to hide our way of life."

Chesir, still feeling the tug of the rabbinate, began holding informal services on Jewish holidays when he arrived in San Francisco in 1972. Soon, Chesir and two like-minded men decided to found a gay congregation.

THE FIRST SERVICE was a Sabbath celebration in July 1977. Forty people worshiped at Glide Memorial Church. Since then, Sha'ar Zahav has convened at the Jewish Community Center, a Buddhist monastery, the Norwegian-American Hall and the Northeast Mental Health Center.

Now, after six years as wandering Jews, Sha'ar Zahav's 232 members have found a home, a beautiful dark-wooden sanctuary built in 1907 at 201 Caselli Ave. in the Upper Market area. Owned by the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, the building is a tranquil, vaulted space that would be at home in Mendocino. Once the congregation is settled, it will appoint a rabbi.

The only thing that stands between Sha'ar Zahav and its new temple is money. The congregation is paying \$240,000 for the building, \$200,000 of which must be paid in cash by Oct. 1. So far, Irene Ogus and her fund-raisers have rounded up \$150,000.

"You'd think \$50,000 wouldn't be hard to raise," Ogus told me Wednesday night, "especially in light of the affluence of our gay Jewish community. But our members have been cut off from a basic Jewish tradition — giving. They've been isolated so long that they forget their parents and grandparents gave to their synagogues."

At first, says Ogus, she thought The City's rich Jewish families would be helpful. "We thought the Jewish community at large would be generous with us. After all, building a synagogue is a great 'mitzvah' (blessed deed). But there was no response. Now we realize that we must do it on our own."

"We hired a professional fund-raiser, but he said, 'The only reason the big-name Jews would give you money is if you promised to leave town.'"

S.F. Sunday Examiner & Chronicle, September 11, 1983

Ed. Note: Bill is right about almost everything in his column except the number of gay/lesbian synagogues. There are close to 20 in the country, with several more outside the U.S. Six years ago, Sha'ar Zahav was the third such synagogue to be formed, and now three are members of the UAHC.

Bikur Cholim Works!

IN OBSERVANCE OF THE HIGH HOLY DAYS, Rabbi Ben Marcus coordinated visits by members of the Congregation to several elderly Jews in homes around San Francisco. In the spirit of Bikur Cholim, our Congregation was able to share some holiday wishes, conversation, song and even an occasional Shofar blast with these members of the Jewish community who generally are not able to attend services.

On another front, we were also able to assist a member in need when — one day before he was scheduled to move — his car fell apart and he came down with the flu. Rabbi Ben, as Chair of Bikur Cholim, discussed this member's plight at Friday night services, and help (in the persons of Wendy and Barry) was on its way. We received the following letter shortly thereafter:

Dear Mike,

...With the Congregation's help and support, I was able to move that day, expediently, in spite of my car breaking down and a bout of the flu. I want everyone to know that the Bikur Cholim Committee works. They are quiet, efficient, and perhaps unsung — but I cannot thank them enough for their support when I needed help.

Sincerely,
Jeff Friedman

Thanks for the kind words, Jeff. That's what we're here for.

Koenigsberg not on ritual?

At the September 19 Va'ad meeting, President Mike Rankin reported that Garry Koenigsberg has decided to step down as Co-Chair of the Ritual Committee and turn his considerable abilities to other areas of the Congregation's activities. His resignation was accepted with a warm sense of gratitude at his tremendous accomplishments in the Ritual Committee, most visible being his key role in the "bringing to light" of our two-volume High Holy Day machzor. Leslie Bergson will continue as Co-Chair, with Steve Greenberg joining her in that position.

Garry's (two-volume) letter of resignation expressed some of the joys and satisfactions which most of us who have been active in various Congregational committees and projects have experienced. It also included an appraisal and challenge:

"I think the most important thing I accomplished as Ritual Chair was to add chutzpah to our expectations. ... If I helped add something (to our previous ritual accomplishments), it was attitudinal: A change from the idea that we were a gay synagogue and would do the best we could with what we had, to a view that as a synagogue representing and serving the gay community, we should expect everything we do to be better than in a standard synagogue — more beautiful, more relevant, more inclusive. If the rest of the talented people on and off Ritual hadn't been around, this chutzpadik attitude would have been merely embarrassing. As it is, I think we've pulled it off. And I certainly don't mean just on Ritual. Long may we have chutzpah, and long may we ignore the voices that say 'that's too hard for us!'"

Coming Home

One evening at a coffee hour after a lecture, a woman told a story. She hadn't had much active contact with Judaism for a long time, but she'd come to hear my talk because of something that had happened to her a few weeks earlier, and she wanted to know if I could give her advice.

'Several weeks ago I was out shopping when a bearded man dressed in black approached me on the sidewalk and asked if I was Jewish. He seemed to come from some Hasidic group. They had a van parked at the curb, and there were several of these men there.

'When I told him I was Jewish, he gave me a pair of small candlesticks made of stamped out metal and asked me to light candles on Friday evening. He even gave me the candles, told me what time to do it, and handed me a card with the words of a prayer written in phonetic English.

'At home I put the candlesticks on the table and forgot about them for a day or two. But on Friday afternoon when I got home, they were the first thing that caught my eye. I looked at them. They were very simple and plain, nothing like the candlesticks I use for a candlelight dinner, but there was something about them that attracted me.

I remembered going to my grandmother's house sometimes on Friday afternoons, and how she'd have her candles on the table too. So I looked at the clock, and about the time the man said to do it, I lit the candles and said the words on the card.

'I want to tell you this. I don't understand why and how, but something happened. I was quiet for awhile. I kept on looking at the candles. I even remembered how my grandmother used to make this motion — round circles through the air with her hands, as if to bring the light close to herself, and then cover her face. I did that too.

'And I started to cry. I don't know why. It was bittersweet. I felt in touch with things in my life I'd given up on, things which turned out to have a lot of meaning for me. At the same time another voice from inside was telling me I was being sentimental and silly over a pair of cheap little candlesticks. But I'd had that feeling, like seeing a very dear friend after a long separation, and I wanted to feel it again.

I've been trying to do it since. Somehow, I think there's more to it than just saying those words and making those motions with your hands. What should I do?'

I smiled at her and praised God. She had already begun to do what she had to do to reinforce her connection with what she called *that feeling*. The best light from the Sabbath candles is not the light on the outside, it's the light within us; and her inner light had been rekindled. Now it was like a beacon, orienting her to the riches of her birthright.

Zalman Schachter-Shalomi

THE FIRST STEP

A Guide for the New Jewish Spirit

October Happy Birthdays!

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Carol Ruth Silver | 20 Bernard Pechter |
| 4 Richard Inlander | 21 Chuck Norton |
| 7 Mike Zimmerman | 23 Seth Charney |
| 13 David Gellman | 29 Allan Berenstein |
| 17 Andy Swartz | 29 Scott Selcow |
| 19 Ben Brody | |

October Yahrzeits

- 1 (24 Tishri) Nathan Ogus, Father of Irene Ogus
- 1 Helen Rosenberg, Grandmother of Frank Wheeler
- 1 Tobias Rothstein, Great Grandfather of Bruce Katz
- 2 (25 Tishri) Sara Marcus, Mother of Ben Marcus
- 8 Ronald Lane, Nephew of Hy Rifkin
- 24 Dora Spiro, Grandmother of Shelley Spiro
- 25 (18 Heshvan) Harry Berenstein, Father of Allan Berenstein
- 28 (21 Heshvan) Bernice M. Greenberg, Mother of Janis Greenberg
- 31 Mary Palmatier, Aunt of Dana Vinicoff

Do You Know...

Why you need title insurance when you buy your home?

Your Attorney Can Help You Understand.

David R. Gellman, Attorney at Law

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The Illusion of Frustration

Worry, doubt, indecision fill my mind.
And blunders happen too often I find.
Deep inner strength is my greatest tool.
But often I use it like a fool.

Love is my purpose I want to pursue.
But efforts cross purpose, what can I do?
Even my dream resists its own shape.
I pray to God that I'll soon awake.

Can it be that I want too much too fast?
Ah, I have uncovered my sin at last.

Peter Lorenzo Abinanti

Solution to Riddle Cryptogram *from page 2)*

Nut-ting.

What does one get
when one crosses a cashew
with the sound made
by tapping a schnoppes glass
once
gently
with a spoon?

CONGREGATION SHA'AR ZAHAV

P.O. Box 5640

San Francisco, CA 94101

(415) 921-7612

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